

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In a Preliminary Amendment filed with the specification, Applicants had entered the following paragraph after the title on Page 1, the passage of which Applicants herein amend as follows:

This application claims priority to PCT/GB99/04352, filed December 22, 1999, which claims priority to European Patent Application No. 98310567.7 filed December 22, 1998.

On a separate page following the claims, please enter the following:

**ABSTRACT**

Cells of *Bacillus subtilis* or other micro-organism suitable for screening compounds for antibiotic activity express an essential protein and have a polynucleotide construct comprising a regulatory sequence operably linked to a reporter gene, in which the regulatory sequence is associated with a feedback mechanism responsive to alteration of synthesis or activity of the essential protein. A method of screening compounds for antibiotic or other biological activity comprises incubating the compounds with aliquots of the cells as defined and observing the level of expression of the reporter gene. Methods of identifying suitable regulatory sequences which are not promoters of the target gene, are also described.